



## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE TONY HWANG**

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**

INSURANCE COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Good morning Chairmen Cassano and Rojas and Ranking leaders Fasano and Aman and members of the Planning and Development Committee and thank you for the opportunity to speak before your committee. My name is Tony Hwang, State Representative for the 134<sup>th</sup> District, representing Fairfield and Trumbull.

I am here to ask for your support for proposed House Bill 5965 – Law Enforcement partnership local Domestic Violence Prevention organizations in raising awareness about domestic violence. This bill will reinforce law enforcement's sensitivity training on the complex issue of domestic violence. I would suggest adding language to CT statute section 7-294g that would require municipal police departments to provide awareness and sensitivity training as part of a basic or review training program.

HB 5965 will support existing CT General Statute section 46b-38b(e) which specified that law enforcement agencies must develop and implement specific operational guidelines for arrest policies in family violence incidents must meet the standards set forth by the Task Force on Law Enforcement Response to Family Violence. This includes each police department assigning someone with supervisory duties as a domestic violence liaison to review and oversee policies related to family violence. I want to acknowledge the CT Coalition against Domestic Violence and House Speaker's Taskforce on Domestic Violence for their bipartisan work in advocating this important legislative issue.

I have personally observed an effective partnership between my local law enforcement leaders – Fairfield Police Chief Gary MacNamara, Trumbull Police Chief Thomas Kiely, Fairfield Police Detective Kerry Dalling and the Center for Women and Families of Fairfield County. Their passionate commitment in the fight against Domestic Violence has made a tremendous difference in prevention and prosecution of domestic violence in our community. Their leadership goes beyond statute and words; their leadership is defined by examples of awareness and sensitivity and the countless victims of domestic violence that they have helped and supported toward a new and violence free life.

I am committed to working with your committee in drafting appropriate and effective language to implement this bill in the fight against domestic violence. It will be continual progression in the elimination on violence in our community.

I want to thank this committee and especially the Chairs and Ranking members for your time and consideration in this matter and I will gladly answer questions from members of the committee.